



Conservation Practice Overview

July 2021

Wastewater Treatment, Milk House (Code 627)

The physical, mechanical, and biological treatment of dairy milk house wastewater.

Practice Information

This practice is applied to achieve one or both of the following:

- Improve water quality by reducing nutrients in surface and groundwater
- Improve air quality by reducing odors

This practice applies to all milking operations where milk house wastewater is generated and where soils, geology, and topography are suitable for construction of a milk house wastewater treatment system.

The milk house wastewater treatment system typically consists of five components:

1. Pretreatment tank for a 3-day hydraulic retention time that is required to reduce solids, detergents, fat, oil, and grease (FOG) content of the wastewater. The pretreatment component reduces the total solids and nutrients content by half in clarifying the wastewater for final treatment.
2. Storage tank for the clarified wastewater after pretreatment.
3. Transfer component, typically a pump system to distribute the stored pretreated wastewater.
4. A distribution system to uniformly apply the wastewater to the final wastewater treatment component.
5. A final wastewater treatment component that processes the nutrient content and utilizes the wastewater. Based on the site conditions, different strategies can be used for the final wastewater treatment component.

Common Associated Practices

NRCS Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Wastewater Treatment, Milk House (Code 627) is commonly applied with NRCS CPS Diversion (Code 362), Roof Runoff Structure (Code 558), Vegetated Treatment Area (Code 635), or Constructed Wetland (Code 656).

